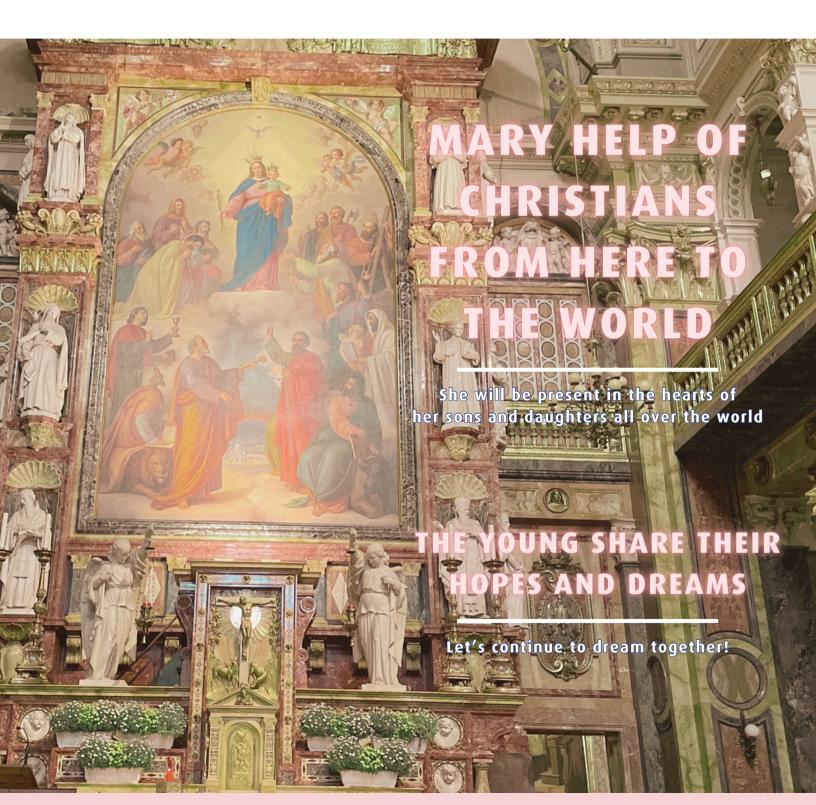


## Salesian Family Snippets



News of the Salesian Family Near and Far









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Have an article you'd like featured in Salesian Family Snippets? Send it to us! communications@salesians.org

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Cover photo by Ms. Julia St. Clair, SUE Communications Director | Photos on "In This Issue" page courtesy of Agenzia Info Salesiana (ANS), Fr. John Puntino, SDB; and Sr. Christina Chong, FMA | Flier on page 20 by Sr. Denise Sickinger, FMA

Light and Shadow of Every Vocation and Mission



Don Ángel embraces a young person during his visit to Mato Grosso. Courtesy of Agenzia Info Salesiana (ANS)

## MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS FROM HERE TO THE WORLD

THE MESSAGE OF THE RECTOR MAJOR CARDINAL ÁNGEL FERNÁNDEZ ARTIME, SDB

Dear readers of the Salesian Bulletin,

My affectionate and cordial greetings during this Easter season. In a world in turmoil, agitated by armed conflicts and no small amount of violence, we continue to declare, announce, and proclaim that Jesus is Lord, raised by the Father, and that he LIVES. We strongly need His Presence in hearts willing to welcome Him.

At this same moment, I'm able to look over the content of this month's *Bulletin*, always rich and filled with Salesian life, for which I'm grateful to those who make it a reality. Reading its pages before writing my greeting, I found presented so many Salesian places around the world where Mary Help of Christians has come.

I must confess to you that when I'm inside the magnificent Basilica of Mary Help of Christians in Valdocco, in this holy place where everything speaks of the presence of God, of the maternal protection of our Mother, and of Don Bosco, I struggle to imagine how those words of the Help of Christians to Don Bosco became reality: "from here"—from this Marian shrine—"my glory will go out to the whole world." (*Hic domus mea; inde gloria mea.*) But thus it is.

In these ten years of service as Rector Major, I've visited hundreds of Salesian presences in the world where our Mother is present. Now, I wish to speak to you again about my most recent experience. It was on my last visit to our Salesian presences, the one among the Xavante people, that I was able to "touch with my own hands" God's Providence and the good that continues to be done there, as well as among all of us.

I was able to visit several villages and towns in the state of Mato Grosso. I visited San Marcos, the village of Fatima, and Sangrandouro. We also visited some others near these three large centers, including the first settlement we made among the Xavante people. The Xavante are a people who were stricken with diseases and in danger of extinction, but thanks to the help of our missionaries, the medicine they brought, and the dozens of years spent among this people, accompanying them, today the Xavante count more than 23,000 members. This is Providence, this is the proclamation of the Gospel, and, at the same time, it's journeying with a people and their culture, preserved until today, as has never happened before.

I had the opportunity to speak before various civil authorities and am grateful for all that we can do in collaboration for the good of this people and of others. At the same time, I've allowed myself to recall with simplicity, but also with honesty and legitimate pride, that those who've accompanied these peoples for 130 years, as the Church has done—in this case through the sons and daughters of Don Bosco—are worthy of a



Don Ángel blesses a boy who looks at the statue of Mary Help of Christians. Courtesy of Agenzia Info Salesiana (ANS)

respected reputation and of attention to their words. We've done everything we can to join with the voices of those calling for land for these villagers. Accompanying these peoples and defending their land and their Faith (in this case with the Boi-Bororo) led to the martyrdom of Salesian Rudolph Lunkenbein and the Indian Simão in Meruri.

Traveling hundreds of miles by road, I was happy to see so many signs that announced: "Indigenous Reservation Territory." I think this is the best guarantee of peace and prosperity for this people. What does what I'm describing here have to do with Mary Help of Christians? Well, simply *everything*, since it's difficult to imagine a century of Salesian presence (SDBs and FMAs) among the Xavante Indians without our handing down love for the Mother of our Lord, who is our Mother also

In San Marcos, all, or almost all, of the villagers, together with us guests, ended the day of our arrival with a procession and the recitation of the holy Rosary. The image of the Virgin was illuminated in the middle of the night and in the midst of the jungle, amid the elderly, adults, young people, and many mothers who carried their children on their backs in large baskets in which the little ones slept as we made our pilgrimage. We made several stops at different neighborhoods of the village. Undoubtedly, our Mother also was walking through the village of San Marcos and, no doubt, through many others also blessing her indigenous sons and daughters.

It was on my last visit to our Salesian presences, the one among the Xavante people, that I was able to 'touch with my own hands'
God's Providence and the good that continues to be done there, as well as among all of us.

I can't know for sure whether Don Bosco dreamt of this scene of the Virgin in the middle of the Xavante village, but, without a doubt, in the beating of his heart, lived this desire—for this people and for many others—whether from Patagonia, from the Amazon, or on the Paraguay River. It's that desire and that missionary dream that's been coming true in the Amazon for 130 years.

On the coming feast of Mary Help of Christians, on May 24, at different times, Mary Help of Christians will be present in the hearts of her sons and daughters all over the world—first in Taiwan and East Timor, then in India, in Nairobi (Kenya), in Valdocco (Turin), in the Amazon, and in the small village of San Marcos. To the world, this is a nothing, but to this people who've come to know the Help of Christians, it's an entire world.

Happy month of our Lady. Happy feast of the Help of Christians to all—from Valdocco (Turin) to the whole world.

With affection, Don Ángel





Bishop Cardinal Ángel Fernández Artime, SDB Courtesy of Agenzia Info Salesiana (ANS)

#### Life Grows Where It Is Given

Msgr. Ángel Fernández Ordained Bishop

#### GATHERED BY FR. TOM DUNNE, SDB

Ángel Cardinal Fernández, the tenth successor of Don Bosco, **was ordained bishop** on Saturday, April 20, in the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome.

At the Eucharist, another Salesian, Msgr. Giordano Piccinotti, president of the Administration of the Patrimony of the Apostolic See (APSA), also received episcopal ordination.

Archbishop Angel prepared for his ordination by making a retreat at the Santa Clara convent of the Poor Clare Sisters in the from Friday, April 12, through Monday, April 15.

Cardinal Emil Paul Tscherrig, Apostolic Nuncio Emeritus to Italy and the Republic of San Marino presided at the ordination Mass The main co-consecrators were Cardinal Cristóbal López Romero, SDB, Archbishop of Rabat (Morocco), and Bishop Luc Van Looy, SDB, Bishop Emeritus of Ghent (Belgium).

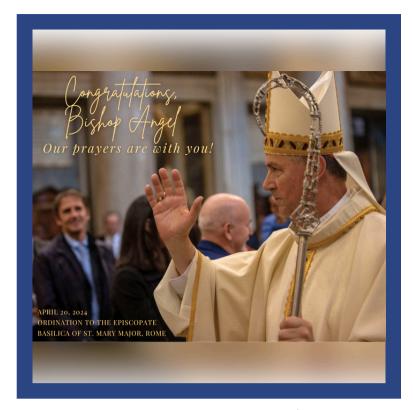
According to the Salesian News Agency (**ANS**), Cardinal Tscherrig gave a brief homily in which he emphasized: "We are gathered here to celebrate one of the greatest miracles of the Church: apostolic succession. Since the time of the Apostles, this succession has been transmitted by the laying on of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit. The grace of the episcopal ministry has always passed from one bishop to another, and this unbroken succession continues today."

Quoting Pope Francis, Cardinal Tscherrig said that "becoming a bishop implies a missionary choice capable of transforming everything" and that bishops must be able to look at and love their faithful with the eyes of Christ. He pointed out that "Life grows when it is given, while it weakens in isolation and comfort. In fact, those who enjoy life the most are those who leave the safety of the shore and become enthusiastic about the mission of communicating life to others." (ANS)

The homily was followed by the rite of episcopal consecration with the litanies of the saints and the laying on of hands on the new archbishops. After being anointed and receiving their respective miters, rings, and staffs, both were greeted by warm applause from the congregation.

After Communion, Cardinal Ángel Fernández Artime, thanked those present, highlighted the union of the Salesians with Pope Francis, and indicated that he and Bishop Piccinotti will continue to serve the Church, especially the poor.

The Mass was also attended by various faithful, friends and relatives, civil authorities; and some Salesian cardinals such as Tarcisio Bertone, Daniel Sturla, Archbishop of Montevideo (Uruguay); and Óscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga, Archbishop Emeritus of Tegucigalpa, Honduras.



The Salesian Family's congratulations to Bishop Ángel Designed by Sr. Denise Sickinger, FMA

Click here or on the image above to watch the video of Bishop Angel's ordination.



#### **Together to Renew**

Online Event for Salesian Cooperators

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED ON WWW.INFOANS.ORG, 05/02/24

(ANS - Rome) - Salesian Cooperators worldwide are invited to an online meeting on Saturday, May 4. It is a celebratory virtual event that is part of the three-year preparation for the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the Association of Salesian Cooperators. It will be a moment to retrace the journey made so far and start the second year around 2026.



Cardinal Ángel Fernández Artime, SDB, prepares for his ordination as bishop.

Courtesy of Agenzia Info Salesiana (ANS)

#### A Message from the Rector Major

After His Ordination

FROM BISHOP ÁNGEL FERNÁNDEZ ARTIME, SDB

Dear Confreres,

Dear brothers and sisters of the various groups of the Salesian Family throughout the world, may my greeting full of affection and closeness reach all of you.

On the eve of my **Episcopal Ordination**, having been appointed by the Holy Father Pope Francis, I am writing to you to officially and definitively communicate my personal situation in relation to our Congregation and the Salesian Family.

Some time ago, Pope Francis expressed the desire that my Episcopal Ordination could take place during the Easter season, together with that of our confrere Monsignor Giordano Piccinotti, and that I could continue my service until **the appropriate time**.

Well, always trusting in the Lord, who is the only guarantor of our life, I communicate to you the following:

1. The Holy Father has sent me the **document of "derogation"** (an expression that means *"exception to what is legislated"*)

with which he authorizes me to continue for a further period as Rector Major, even though I have received episcopal consecration. This document, with the authorization of the Holy Father, has already come down to us and is preserved in the archives of the Congregation.

2. In agreement with Pope Francis, I will end my service as
Rector Major on the evening of August 16, 2024, after the
celebration of the 209th anniversary of the birth of our Father
Don Bosco. On the same day we will conclude the "Synod on
Youth" in which 370 young people from all over the world will
participate on the occasion of the bicentenary of the dream at
age nine, which for Don Bosco was a dream-vision and a program
of life that has come down to us. That evening, with a simple act, I
will resign in accordance with Article 128 of our Constitutions
and I will hand over this document to the Vicar of the Rector
Major, Fr. Stefano Martoglio who, according to Article 143,
will assume the governance of our Congregation ad interim,
until the election of the new Rector Major on the occasion of GC29
to be held in Valdocco (Turin) starting from February 16,
2025.

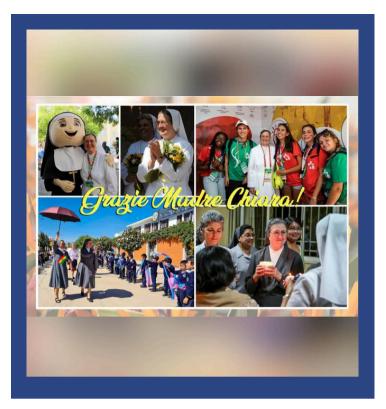
3. Certainly, from now on and especially after August 16, 2024, I will take up the service that the Holy Father will indicate and entrust to me for the good of the Church.

I wish to thank the Lord, together with all of you, dear brothers and sisters, for the way in which we have been blessed in these ten years, both as a Congregation and as the Salesian Family of Don Bosco. The Lord has assisted us with his Spirit and Mother the Help of Christians, so dear to us, has always held our hands. We are sure that this will continue to be the case in the future, because "She has done everything".

May my greeting full of affection and closeness reach all of you.

At this moment, my final thoughts go to Don Bosco who, without a doubt, will continue to take care of his Congregation and his precious Family.

With true affection and united in the Lord I greet you, Card. Ángel Fernández Artime, SDB Rector Major



Collage for World Gratitude Day Courtesy of the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (FMAs)

#### Thank You, Mother Chiara!

This Year's World Gratitude Day Celebration

GATHERED BY SR. DENISE SICKINGER, FMA, AND MS. JULIA ST. CLAIR, SUE PROVINCE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

On Tuesday, April 23, the Superior General of the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, Mother Chiara Cazzuola, **began her visit to Mozambique** with the Provincials of the CIAM Conference of Africa and Madagascar. They arrived in Mozambique after her **Visit to Queen of Peace Pre-province** (ANG) and the Spiritual Exercises in Luanda, Angola.

Mother Chiara's beautiful visit also included **the celebration of World Gratitude Day** on Friday, April 26, at St. John Bosco
House in Infulene, Maputo, Mozambique. It was animated by
St. John Bosco Province (MOZ). The feast's theme was "With
Mary, guided by the 'dream', we generate peace by taking
care of our common home." It aimed to be a hymn of praise
in response to the Chapter Deliberation, in the context of
Integral Ecology. This was proclaimed, "O Lord our God, you
have given us power over the work of your hands" (cf. Psalm
8)," with the psalmist. The Mozambican Province invited the
FMAs to delve deeper into nurturing the experience of Mother
Mazzarello and Don Bosco, as well as education and ecological



Mother Chiara with children in Mozambique Courtesy of the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (FMAs)

spirituality. To achieve this, the province drew on Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'*. Finally, it concluded with the proposal of a *lectio* on the Beatitudes (Mt. 5:1-12) and the commitment to live them every day as an educating community.

Per tradition, Gratitude Day presented everyone with the opportunity to express closeness and gratitude to the Superior of the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. As Sister María del Rosario García Ribas recalled in the Letter in view of the Feast, "From the beginning of the preparation for this year's celebration, we want to recognize the priceless gift that our dearest Mother, Sister Chiara Cazzuola, is for every Daughter of Mary Help of Christians and for the Educating Communities of the world."

Explore the program for this year's World Gratitude Day.

Thank you, Mother Chiara, for your simplicity in relationships, with which you become close, and a "Mother" for your daughters and anyone who approaches you. Thank you, Mother Chiara, for your smile and the Salesian joy that you know how to bring light and joy into every environment.

Thank you, Mother Chiara, for your ability to reach hearts, and for your "clear" and close word that touches hearts and helps us walk together.



Sr. Phyllis Neves, FMA, speaks during the closure of the diocesan inquiry. Courtesy of the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (FMAs)

#### Closure of the Diocesan Inquiry

for Servant of God Antonietta Böhm, FMA

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED ON WWW.INFOANS.ORG, 04/29/24

(ANS - Cuautitlán, Mexico) - On Sunday, April 28, at 9:00 local time, in the Cathedral of San Bonaventura at Cuautitlán, Mexico, after the Mass presided over by the diocesan bishop, Bishop Efraín Mendoza Cruz, the Closing Session was held to solemnize the conclusion of the diocesan Inquiry into the life, virtues, fame of holiness and signs of the Cause of Beatification and Canonization of the Servant of God Antonieta Böhm, professed Sister in the Congregation of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (FMAs). The following members of the tribunal took their oath: the Bishop; Fr. Omar Nemesio Montoya García, Episcopal Delegate; Fr. Adolfo Martínez Melo, Promoter of Justice; María de Lourdes Jasso Arredondo, Notary; Fr. Pierluigi Cameroni, SDB, Postulator General for the Causes of the Saints of the Salesian Family, and the Vice-Postulator, Sr. María Guadpe Cháaluvez Rodríguez, FMA. The Archetype was then delivered with the original Documents to be kept in the diocesan archives, and two copies (*Transcript* and *Public Copy*) delivered to Fr. Gabriel Cruz, SDB, a member of the Salesian General Postulation, to be passed on to the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints in Rome.



Group photo of Salesian Family and General Council members.

Courtesy of the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (FMAs)

In the homily, Bishop Mendoza Cruz, referring to the Sunday Gospel of the vine and the branches, stressed how Mother Antonietta Böhm was a living and fruitful branch united to Christ, who bore fruit and accepted the prunings of life. Sr. Phyllis Neves, General Visitor and Councillor of the FMAs, addressed a greeting message on behalf of the Superior General of the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, Mother Chiara Cazzuola. An artistic event followed as a tribute to Sr. Antonietta Böhm: "Semilla de amor" (Seed of Love), performed by former students of the Laura Vicuña Educational Centre, accompanied by the Effetà musical group.

Antonietta Böhm was born on September 22, 1907 in Bottrop, Germany. In Essen, she met the FMA, who arrived in Germany in 1922, and was fascinated by their serene and apostolic lifestyle. In 1926, she began her postulate in the house at Eschelbach and continued her novitiate in Italy at Nizza Monferrato. In 1928 she made her first profession and then remained in Italy to study music in Turin; in addition, she was assistant to university students in Pisa and novices in Casanova.

After her perpetual profession, which she made in Turin on August 5, 1934, she began her missionary life: first in Argentina (1934-1965), then in Peru (1965-1969) and in Mexico (1969-2008). She was a music teacher, nurse, vicar, local superior, provincial. Everywhere she showed herself to be a strong woman, available to listen and always confident in the help of God and Mary Help of Christians. She consolidated the existing works and opened new ones with a view to the future.

She spent the last 30 years of her life, since 1979, in the Villa Spem community in Coacalco as vicar and then superior. These were the fruitful years of the apostolate as a spiritual guide and of social commitment to the poor. In 1973, Mother Ersilia Crugnola had given her a statue of Mary Help of Christians as a gift and she had invited her to send her maternal blessing. At first, Sister Antonietta Böhm shielded herself and did not want to accept but, when a person who had been blessed was completely healed, her fear disappeared. Mother Antonietta said: "From the first blessing until now, Our Lady works day and night and so her mission extends through mail, fax, email and arrives in different places in Mexico and many other parts of the world."

Relying on Mary's help and blessing, extraordinary graces occurred. In 1985 she began the "*Obra sabatina*" which consisted of the distribution of food to the most needy and until 2000, she followed up the entire organization. Then she calmly accepted the lack of strength and allowed herself to be treated, edifying the novices and all those who frequented the house. She died on April 27, 2008 in Coacalco, Mexico.

The testament she leaves is one of ardent love for Jesus, unlimited trust in Mary Help of Christians, welcoming kindness, and generous and serene availability to the mission for the extension of the Kingdom of God in various cultures, families and people's hearts.



Salesian Cooperators pray together during the Second Regional Meeting of Young Leaders in Interamerica.

Courtesy of Agenzia Info Salesiana (ANS)

#### Strengthening the Association (1876-1888)

History of the Salesian Cooperator Association

BY FR. TOM DUNNE, SDB

Immediately after the approval of the Salesian Cooperator Association and its Rule of Life, Don Bosco embarked on a vigorous effort to spread membership in the association, strengthen the identity of its members, and clarify the core understandings that gave form to the Salesian Cooperator vocation.

#### Increase membership

Don Bosco took an aggressive stance in inviting new members into the association. He identified outstanding Catholics with high social standing (including Pope Pius IX) to whom he sent letters of invitation. Don Bosco knew that these well-thought-of people would be open to joining an association with goals like the Salesian Cooperators. Their standing in society would encourage others to join as well. So confident was he of receiving a positive response, that Don Bosco included a copy of the Salesian Cooperator Rule with the invitations.

Don Bosco made many of these invitations in-person during travels to France, Spain, and many parts of Italy. He made sure to meet with Catholic community leaders in large cities where he would come in contact with a great many potential Salesian Cooperators. These recruiting visits were very successful. Cities such as Nice, Marseilles, Rome, Genoa, and Barcelona became large centers for the Salesian Cooperators. In an 1880 conference in San Benigno Canavese, Don Bosco announced that there were 30,000 men and women Salesian Cooperators with more joining every day.

#### **Animation**

Don Bosco worked to preserve the unity of the Salesian Cooperators by organizing conferences to be held on the Feasts of St. Francis De Sales and Mary Help of Christians. The first was held in Rome on Jan. 27, 1878. These conferences were rather simple in nature, consisting in a reading from the Rule, a talk by Don Bosco, a song, and prayers. The talk by Don Bosco (as well as the day) had a strong formative goal and content. *The Biographical Memoirs* mention about 50 of these conferences by Don Bosco in Italy, France, and Spain.



#### Communication

Don Bosco published the *Salesian Bulletin* to bind the Salesian Cooperators together in an association. This publication was to be the official organ of communication for the Salesian Cooperators. The purpose of the *Salesian Bulletin* was that Don Bosco could keep his Salesian Cooperators united to the center of the Salesian Congregation and among themselves. Other periodicals from the Oratory were folded into the *Salesian Bulletin*. This bulletin was distributed free of charge to every Salesian Cooperator on a monthly basis. By 1887, Don Bosco was publishing 40,000 subscriptions of the *Salesian Bulletin* each month. A French edition appeared in 1879 followed by editions in Argentina in 1880, and Spain in 1886.



Flier for ongoing formation Made by Mrs. Elizabeth Wlodzimierski, Salesian Cooperator Communications Provincial Councilor

## DON'T FORGET

The next virtual formation session in preparation for the 150th Anniversary of the Founding of the Association of Salesian Cooperators and the 200th Anniversary of Don Bosco's Dream of Nine Years Old will take place on Tuesday, May 14.



#### Leadership

Don Bosco provided for the leadership of his Salesian Cooperator centers by setting up an animation and governance system based on the practice of the Roman army. Whenever a new center was formed, Don Bosco sought out a diocesan priest who would be assigned to care for up to 10 Salesian Cooperators. These priests were called "Decurions." Don Bosco prepared a list of general norms to help the decurions to fulfill their role with the Salesian Cooperator centers. The coordination of the many Salesian Cooperator groups within a diocese would be given to the Diocesan Director. It has to be remembered, however, that Don Bosco always put a great priority on inviting Salesians, especially the directors, to take care of the Association.

#### **Spiritual Testament**

In his last days, Don Bosco was eminently grateful to God for the presence and contributions of the Salesian Cooperators and Benefactors to his mission with the poorest of young people. He listed dozens of influential and ordinary people who had supported the birth and development of the Salesian work in so many extraordinary ways. In a special way, he pointed to the large number of Salesian Cooperators (men and women) by whose fraternal efforts the apostolic strength of the Salesian Congregation had been increased ten-fold. Don Bosco called these partners in his mission "Salesians" in the same way as Salesian priests, brothers, and sisters. While not in a canonical way, Don Bosco understood Salesian Cooperators to be "Salesians in the world."



Based on: A Prophecy's Journey, The Strengthening of the Association through 1988 Chapter 3: by Morand Worth SDB, pp. 23-24.



Twenty members of the Salesian Youth Council with the Salesian Sisters
Photo by Sr. Christina Chong, FMA

#### The Young Share Their Hopes and Dreams

with the Leadership of St. Joseph Province (SEC)

BY SR. CHRISTINA CHONG, FMA

Twenty members of the Salesian Youth Council, with their adult chaperones, gathered for two days in Newton, NJ to reflect, share, and offer input to the Sisters of SEC Province as they plan for the future. The Salesian Youth Council is composed of students from the Sisters' secondary schools, across the United States and Canada. They represent the voice of the young - having been selected as leaders in their respective schools.

The highlight of the weekend was the opportunity for the Youth Council to share with the Provincial Council the results of a survey that hundreds of Salesian youth in the U.S. and Canada completed. Under the direction of Gabriel Suarez, director of curriculum at Immaculata-La Salle and Coordinator of the Youth Council, they shared about the dreams, fears, hopes and obstacles currently facing this generation of young people and offered suggestions to the Sisters on what is needed from them, in order to help the young on their journey of holiness. Ms. Amy Danos, Science Department Head and Campus Minister from Academy of Our Lady, in Louisiana served as one of the adult chaperones. She says, "The Salesian Youth Council gives our young a voice because they are constantly evolving and changing and it's good for not only the Salesian Sisters but the lay people to hear so we know how to help them with their needs better."

The group reflected on what it means to be a Catholic in this day and age, enjoyed time to recreate with games and a bonfire, and prayed together, with Fr. Steve DeMaio, SDB, Vocation Director for the Province of St. Philip (SUE), celebrating Mass for the group. Sr. Kathryn Flanagan, Coordinator for Youth Ministry in SEC says, "The Youth Council worked so hard to communicate to the Council what their peers shared about the difficulties and joys of being a young person today. They also created a comprehensive pastoral plan for the next school year that we hope the entire Province can implement together. It's important that it comes from them because in this way, they can really feel a part of this plan and make it their own."



The pastoral plan suggested by the Youth Council for the 2024-2025 school year centers on the dreams of the young people - recalling the famous dream of St. John Bosco that revealed his vocation to him. The Youth Council provided actionable steps for implementing this plan in the elementary, middle, and high schools and also designed a logo and sample t-shirts. Thank you to all our students who participated in the survey and to the Salesian Youth Council for all your hard work. Let's continue to dream together!



Pope Francis (left) hands over the official letter for Jubilee 2025. Courtesy of www.iubilaeum2025.va

#### A Calender to Lead the Journey

Jubliee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

#### ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED ON WWW.INFOANS.ORG, 02/21/24

(ANS - Vatican City) – The entire universal Church is preparing for the Holy Year of 2025, a Jubilee year in which each person can realize and experience even more powerfully, that God's holiness is able to transform the life of every person. Although all the faithful will be able to receive the grace of the Jubilee in the myriad of initiatives that will be carried out in dioceses around the world, there will certainly be many pilgrims who will travel to Rome for the occasion, to meet the Successor of Peter. As in the past, the organizing committee of the Jubilee 2025 has planned specific moments to experience and celebrate the Jubilee pilgrimage in the various groups and social segments.

Special programs have been designed for journalists, artists, and religious, as well as the sick, prisoners, young people, and volunteers. These are just some of the recipients of the major jubilee events, contained in the first part of the calendar of events that will continue throughout 2025, which will begin with the opening of the Holy Door, in December 2024, until its closing, in the same month of the following year.

The first of the series of events will begin on January 24, 2025, with the World of Communication coinciding with the 59th World Communications Day. It then continues on February 8 and 9, with the participation of armed forces, police, and security forces. From February 15-18, it will be the turn of Artists, while from February 21-23, it will be the turn of Permanent Deacons.

March 8-9 will be dedicated to the world of voluntary works. On March 28, the twenty-four hours for the Lord's Prayer initiative will be celebrated, while on March 29-30, the Missionaries of Mercy will be called upon to participate in the Jubilee experience.

April 5-6 are the two days dedicated to the sick and the world of healthcare, while from April 25-27, confirmation candidates and those making their profession of faith will gather. From April 28-30, the focus would be on people with disabilities.

The calendar for the month of May is very dense with programs. From May 1-4, the days would be dedicated to the workers; from May 4-5 for entrepreneurs, from May 10-11 for musical bands, from May 16-18 for confraternities and pious associations, from May 23-25 the jubilee of those celebrating their first communion, while that of families is scheduled for May 30 and June 1.

June 7-8 will be dedicated to ecclesial movements, associations, and new communities. On June 9 will mark the turn of the Roman Curia with the Nuncios, while June 14-15 are the days chosen for sports persons. The June calendar moves on to June 21-22 with the jubilee of the governments, followed up with those for the seminarians on June 23-24. On June 25, it's

the turn of bishops, followed by priests on June 26-27. The month of June concludes on June 28 with the day of Jubilee dedicated to the Eastern Churches. A busy summer program will be planned for Young People, from July 28 through August 3, in continuity with the World Youth Days.

The Jubilee of Consolation will take place on September 14-15, and the Jubilee of Workers of Justice on September 20-21. Completing the September list are the catechists, who will be able to celebrate their Jubilee from September 26-28.

The Jubilee of Grandparents will be celebrated from October 4-5, followed by the Jubilee of Consecrated Life on October 8-9. On October 11-12, the Jubilee event will focus on Marian Spirituality, followed by dedicated days on October 18-19 for the Jubilee of the Missionary World. From October 28 through November 2, the Jubilee schedule is dedicated to the World of Education.

The Socially Excluded Poor will have their turn at the Jubilee on November 16, while the Choir will have their turn on November 22-23.

The last of the events would be on December 14, with the celebration of the Jubilee for prisoners.

The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire; that is why I have chosen as the motto of the Jubilee, Pilgrims of Hope.

POPE FRANCIS

Check out the full schedule!

For all news, information, animation materials, and spiritual preparation for the jubilee, explore the website, which features all the information in eight different languages.



Don Ángel, Sr. Denise Sickinger, FMA; Fr. Tom Dunne, SDB; and Fr. Miguel Suarez, SDB, during the Salesian Family Pilgrimage 2022 Courtesy of Sr. Denise Sickinger, FMA

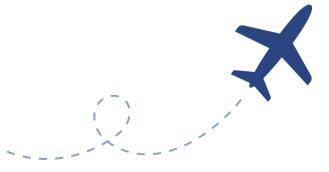
#### **Save the Dates**

for the SUE Province's 2025 Salesian Family Pilgrimage

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED ON WWW.SALESIANS.ORG, 04/16/24

**(New Rochelle, NY)** – The SUE Province's 2025 Salesian Family Pilgrimage will take place from May 5-13 and June 2-10, 2025. It will be in Annecy, France, and Turin, Italy, with an optional extension to Rome.

Please see the brochure for the full details, including the cost and inclusions. There is also a separate registration form for the Rome extension.



For more information, please email Fr. Richard P. Alejunas, SDB. To make a reservation, please email Teena Rodrigue or call her at either (207) 480-3825 or 1 (800) 879-3823.



#### Strenna 2024





A person stuck in a dark room reaches their hand towards the light.

Courtesy of sms00644 from pixabay

#### The Call to the Impossible

Light and Shadow of Every Vocation and Mission

FROM WWW.ADMADONBOSCO.ORG

#### 1.) Vocation and mission: the presence of mystery.

In the dream at nine, which lies at the origin of the entire Salesian mission, John experiences what the Bible attests to in all vocation stories, especially those of special consecration: a mixture of astonishment and disturbance because of the disproportion between human possibilities and what seems impossible to human person, between what is natural and what is supernatural, between the carnal human being and the spiritual human person, between the logic of calculation and that of gratuitousness, between human's few resources and the superabundance of God's gifts. The dialectic of possible and impossible is then experienced as a dialectic between clarity and obscurity. "In due time, you will understand everything", little John is lovingly told.

The two dialectics manifest themselves whenever the mystery of God makes itself present to human consciousness. Since divine inspiration is greater than us and exceeds the possibilities of our reason, the double question immediately arises as to its **source** and **content**. Indeed, in the dream, John wants to know who it is that speaks to him and how it is possible what he is asked: "who are you that command me what is impossible?". It is interesting to examine the answer of the two mysterious characters. But in the meantime, let us say it: no spiritual path takes off and matures if it does not expose itself to the mystery of God, if it does not allow itself to be bewildered by his supernatural character, if it remains reliant on its own natural gifts and limitations, if it places limits on

providence, thus mortifying its own possibilities. This is why, Don Bosco would tell his young people: "you must give yourself to God in good time", otherwise the heart would be filled with 'ifs' and 'buts' that compromise God's dream!

Even John, despite all the supernatural signs, struggled to understand his own vocation and mission. In fact, in the dream at nine, John experiences an ever-increasing tension of soul, which denotes the difficulty in giving credence to the inspirations. The questions are pressing: "who are you ... where, by what means? ... who are you? ... tell me your name". As can be seen, the questions concern the mission and focus on the identity of the person and the feasibility of the mandate. The answers, however, do not erase the climate of mystery: they do not give information but **demand a change in the way of thinking and acting**.

#### 2. The obedience of faith

Obedience—by which is meant filial obedience, that of Jesus, that of Mary, that of the Saints, that which is belonging and recognizing, trust and confidence, loyalty and collaboration—is the right thing, because when it comes to vocation and mission, it is not a question of understanding and knowing, but of

**living an intimate and fruitful relationship with God**, where one's own will is united with God's will, and where

one's intelligence is illuminated by God's wisdom. Then, the miracle happens. God's power can be expressed in our weakness, and our works in Him are none other than His works in us! It is the ideal of the life of grace: "you in me and I in you", so that there may be love and joy, efficacy of prayer and fruitfulness of works (cf. Jn. 14:20; 15:4; 15:5; 17:21-22).

The obedience of faith **makes the** impossible, possible: to move the mountains of pride, to heal from all kinds of illnesses, to obtain salvation and eternal life. Obeying is always the right thing to do, because truly—as John experiences in the dream, and with him every one who is called —the mission totally exceeds our strength, but it is made possible by the fact that it does not rely on our abilities, which must be totally brought into play, but on the power of the Risen Lord and His Spirit.

This, then, is what the obedience of faith is: allowing Jesus to turn our views of what **is possible upside down**, because God, by raising his Son made man in the power of the Spirit, has broken through the limit of our human possibilities and opened them up to his divine possibilities! Of this every believer should be firmly convinced: having opened from within the frame of our limitation and our transience, the Lord's Incarnation and Resurrection are the most real things that exist, the things we can always count on without reservation.

The venerable man in the dream addresses John as one would address a child: "because such things seem impossible to you, you must make them possible by obedience". They sound like the words with which parents exhort children when they are reluctant to do something they do not feel capable of or do not feel like doing: "obey and you will see that you succeed." But they



The venerable man in the dream addresses Iohn as one would address a child: "because such things seem impossible to you, you must make them possible by obedience."

are also, and much more, the words with which the Son reveals the secret of the impossible, his obedience: "my food is to do the will of him who sent me and to do his work" (In. 4:34), and "He who sent me is with me and has not left me alone, because I always do the things that are pleasing to him" (Jn. 8:29).

The most basic reason why obeying is important is that God can carry out his dream on us only if he can get us to change our mindset and attitudes. John Bosco, strong and impulsive as he was, had to obey to learn to repress evil not with violence but with benevolence: "not with beatings, but with meekness". The fruit of obedience is an authentic inner transformation, which leads us to overcome the pretense of changing things with the generosity of our spontaneous impulses or with the strength of our natural gifts, in order to enter into the style with which **God acts in history** and in our hearts.

RB

3.) The intelligence of faith We said that: **obedience sharpens** intelligence. The mission, however arduous and obscure it may appear, must be carried out in order to be understood. This is the character of injunction that every vocation carries.

It is still interesting to note that in the dream, in addition to the luminous face of the Lord, John receives the gift of luminous words: both the man and the woman clearly explain what John has to do, and yet leave him confused and frightened. It is precisely through the obedience of faith that the meaning of an entire life is clarified.

#### In the light of the dream, we can ask ourselves:

1.) What is the level of my faith? Do I know that nothing is impossible for God? That he who believes, sees? That a grain of genuine faith is enough to see miracles? That Mary is Mother and Teacher in the faith? That obeying is better than doing one's own way? In what is life asking me to trust, to rely on? In what does God have to win in me, in what to break down resistance, in what to untie knots?

2.) Do I accept the nature of faith leaning on God's wisdom and power? Do I know that 'though I walk through the valley of darkness, I need fear no evil, for he is with me'? Do I unceasingly ask for patience and hope in times of trials, so as not to give in to pessimism and discouragement.

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NASN's leadership team Courtesy of Fr. John Puntino, SDB

#### Salesian Cooperator Joe Conroy Flected NASN President

#### BY FR. JOHN PUNTINO, SDB

Mr. Joseph Conroy, Salesian Cooperators Provincial Coordinator in Canada, was elected President of the North American Salesian Network (NASN) at its annual meeting at Camp Desales in Brooklyn, MI, from April Monday, April 8, through Wednesday, April 10. NASN officers hold a two-year term renewable once.



Br. Dan Wisniewski, Vice Provincial of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales Wilmington province, was elected secretary. Fr. John Puntino, SDB, continues his second term as Vice President, and Sr. Anne Elizabeth Eder of the Oblate Sisters of St. Francis de Sales continues her first term as Treasurer.



Salesian Cooperators at the Second Regional Meeting of Young Leaders in Interamerica Courtesy of Agenzia Info Salesiana (ANS)

#### "A Dream, a Promise and the Future" Young Salesian Cooperator Encounter

#### BY FR. TOM DUNNE, SDB

From Friday, April 12, through Sunday, April 14, seventy young Salesian Cooperators came together for an encounter experience sponsored by the Cooperator provinces of the Interamerica Region. Present at the encounter were World Coordinator, Antonio Boccia; Regional Coordinator, Martin Calderon; and Province Coordinator of the Cooperators in the Eastern USA, Nick Magrogan. Emily Maldonado from the Port Chester Center and Sofie Alvarado from the Washington, D.C. Center represented the young Salesian Cooperators from the Eastern USA province. Salesian Cooperators from the Western USA Province joined as well.

## Emily's Life as a Salesian Cooperator (Fr. Tom Dunne's paraphrase of Emily's sharing)

I am a parishioner at St. John Bosco Parish in Port Chester, NY. I teach second-grade students in a public school. In addition, I serve as a catechist and youth group leader. I am active with the Salesian Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, having participated in the World Youth Day celebration in Portugal last

year. I am proud to be a Salesian in the family of Don Bosco and Mary Help of Christians.

I spend time with the young teaching parish catechesis. On Monday evenings, my colleague, Lucas, and I help lead the youth group gatherings in the Valdocco Center for high school parishioners. In my daytime job as a grammar school teacher, I bring my Salesian identity to the second graders in my class. I introduce the students to the reason, religion, and kindness of Don Bosco. I like to apply the little bits and pieces of Don Bosco's practices and methods to what I do for and with my students in the public school. As a result, my students know the reason, the love, and the kindness very well. They are definitely a huge part of the routine in my classroom. It's there. It's engraved in them.

You know that public school is not really religion-friendly. Nevertheless, the young really catch on to the normal human emotions connected with reasoning and kindness. They get it, and that's the most important thing I want to pass on to whomever I encounter: whether it's my kids in the classroom or my high school youth group in the Valdocco center. Teaching CCD to young people or joining them in the youth group activities are like planting those seeds in them for life.

#### Emily's Reflection on the Encounter Program

The whole organization did an awesome job in conducting the encounter. We loved the hands-on quality of the group activities, the team building, and the music. Thank you!

## The Salesian Family is a Worldwide Phenomenon

When I first became a Salesian Cooperator about three years ago, I always thought the Cooperators were only in New York, maybe a 66

# In Guatemala, I saw that the Salesian Cooperator vocation was far more extensive and active than I had ever imagined.

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few in New Jersey and Florida. I wasn't too well aware of how big the Salesian Cooperators were. When I got to World Youth Day, I could see a worldwide Salesian Family. In Guatemala, I saw that the Salesian Cooperator vocation was far more extensive and active than I had ever imagined. We are everywhere! It's not just like one isolated group in our own little area. That was really enlightening. Feeling loved in that family experience filled me with joy.

#### **Identity**

I felt like the conference was definitely a great reminder, or a great refresher on not forgetting your Salesian Cooperator Promise and how we can strengthen it as well. It caused me to think about renewing my Promise. There are times when we, as Salesian Cooperators and humans, feel discouraged. We separate ourselves from the community. In these moments, we need to reconnect ourselves, remember our Promise about who's there to guide us. I know Don Bosco had an amazing message in the, "keep your feet firmly planted on the ground and your heart fixed in heaven" motto. It's that memory that makes fresh again why I became a Cooperator in the first place three years ago. So I keep my Promise close in my heart. For me, I can confirm, and I'm strongly with this, that this

is my vocation as a Salesian Cooperator. It has been sealed and cast in stone that I am a proud Salesian Cooperator.

#### **Relationships**

In discussions and sharing, all of us on the Encounter came to know that we shared many core values. We were mostly struggling with the same issues. We came to the realization that we are all in this together. Knowing that we all have each other makes it more possible to actually find a way to resolve these issues, not just to talk about them.



#### Prayer

The program offered us many opportunities to focus on God and His Mother, Mary Help of Christians throughout our times together. We joined for Eucharistic Adoration, daily Mass, a time for Marian devotion, and reflection on Sacred Scripture. The liturgical and religious music expressed quite well the culture and devotional styles of the participants.



Salesian Cooperators Elisa Figueroa and Nicholas Magrogan hold the United States flag. Courtesy of Agenzia Info Salesiana (ANS)

#### Advice from Antonio Boccia, World Coordinator

In a word of encouragement to the young Salesian Cooperators, Antonio Boccia called for bold action when confronting obstacles. When meeting a blockage of some sort, figure out another way to achieve the goal and move forward.

#### Be serious about vocations

Everyone says that we need vocations to the Salesian Family and Salesian Cooperator Association. Saying that is not enough. How we can get new vocations? Instead of talking about it and worrying about getting young people into the calling, we have to do what we can to animate the young to be part of Don Bosco's mission. How can we show—like really show—the Salesian charism to these kids? It is not just telling them like in a traditional old school. It is more like animating, more hands-on activity in living out Don Bosco's mission. So that's basically the big emphasis.

## Future: What do the Salesian Cooperators in this province need to hear from the Interamerica Region Encounter?

I believe that we should all get together and be well known. Create that very strong communication within. If we're talking about the U.S., a stronger connection with the East and the West and try and as a cooperator province to create something that we discussed towards the end of our encounter: to create an event where we all get together both virtually and in person to network and come up with a plan especially related to one if the issues we brought up to

Fr. Angel Garcia Morcuende, the SDB General Councilor of youth ministry. The issue I propose is promoting vocations to the Salesian Family: Salesian Cooperators, FMAs, and SDBs.

That's what I will tell them. The number one priority is for more effective communication within the province. Let's create a more vital form of communication, whether it's email, whether it's phone calls, meetings, social media. (I know that's also taking over right now.) We have to look to whatever will call the younger crowd into our family. We have an opportunity to network more broadly to work on future projects in our province, throughout the Unites States (both East and West), and with other countries as well.

## A motto from the Encounter: A Dream, A Promise and The Future.

"Un sueño, una promesa y el futuro." The translation is "a dream, a promise, and the future." For me, this anniversary of Don Bosco's dream at age nine reminds me of our own dream received and accepted when we made our promises at the beginning of our journey as Salesian Cooperator or as a Salesian Family. That dream at age nine is a constant reminder of the promise we made in front of Our Lord and Our Lady. Living out that promise every day is our way of continuing the dream at age nine, the dream that makes us dream.



## MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

during the 200th anniversary year of

The Dream that Makes You Dream

#### **Marian Shrine**

174 Filors Lane, Stony Point, NY

#### Saturday, May 25

- 9 AM CONFESSION AVAILABLE
- 9:30 COFFEE & PASTRIES
- 10 AM OPENING CEREMONIES "THE DREAM OF NINE" - PRESENTATION
- 11:15 AM REFLECTION -SHARING -CHILDREN TO BECCHI HOUSE
- 12 NOON MASS OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS
- 1 PM PICNIC LUNCH ADORATION -GAMES - STREET FAIR - BECCHI HOUSE TOUR - TALENT SHOW
- 3 PM WITNESS TALKS SHARING
- 4 PM ROSARY CROWNING -BLESSING OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS



https://DonBoscoSalesianPortal.org





SUE Province Youth Ministry Interim Delegate Ms. Vicky Weekley, Ms. Megan Sepulvado and Sr. Nicole Daly, FMA Courtesy of Salesian Youth Ministry

#### Salesian Summer of Service

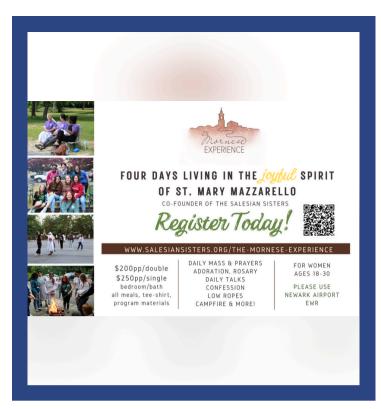
#### ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED ON WWW.SALESIANS.ORG, 04/18/24

The Salesian Lay Missioner program and Salesian Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry are partnering to offer a "Summer of Service," in which college-aged young adults will be invited to spend from one week to two months living in community with Salesians in our various works while doing service. As part of community living, they will eat meals, share prayer moments, attend daily Mass with the local Salesian community, and receive formation and accompaniment from a local Salesian.



Here is the link for young people to fill out if they are interested.

The OYM office will contact the young person directly and figure out an appropriate place for their time of service.



Advertisement for this year's Mornese Experience Courtesy of Sr. Denise Sickinger, FMA

#### Mornese Experience

Join the Salesian Sisters from Thursday, June 6, through Saturday, June 8, for the Mornese Experience.

Visit the website to register and learn more!



#### Latin Night 2024

#### ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED ON WWW.SALESIANS.ORG, 04/16/24

Attend the SUE province's first-ever Latin Night. It'll take place on Saturday, October 5, from 7:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. EST at Salesian High School's Wiegand Center in New Rochelle. Tickets are \$60 per adult and \$20 for children ages six through twelve. Admission for children ages five and younger is free.

The flyer for this event is bilingual. Individual ones are also available in English and Spanish.

For tickets and more information, please contact Denise Martinez-Vargas, Salvador Garcia, and/or Fr. Richard Alejunas, SDB.









Emanuela "Mandi" Diaz, Salesian Cooperator Courtesy of Mid-Hudson News

Emanuela "Mandi" Diaz, Salesian Cooperator

Sr. Rosalie Di Peri, FMA Courtesy of Salesian Sisters' Facebook

Sr. Rosalie Di Peri, FMA

Elizabeth" Betty" Lucia, Salesian Cooperator Courtesy of Legacy Obituaries

Elizabeth "Betty" Lucia, Salesian Cooperator





Let Us Live the Dream That Makes Us Dream



Maria Auxilium Christianorum, ora pro nobis!